Approved For Belease 2001/09/04 : CIA-RDP83T00573R000500040012-3

16 July 19**7**4

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Joint Computer Support	STATINTL
SUBJECT : ORACLE Review at 10 July 1974	
1. This is a report on a one-day visit to on 10 July 1974 for the purpose of reviewing progress on the ORACLE project. I spoke with our representative there for ORACLE acceptance testing; project manager; the software manager on the project; and Vice President and manager of Advanced Technology Division. I saw demonstrations of ORACLE hardware, including a backfill test.	STATINTL STATINTL STATINTL
2. In brief, I believe: (a) the progress of the project is satisfactory, (b) there are no serious problems requiring Agency action, (c) the schedule for hardware shipment (December) and acceptance testing (April) is tight and should be reviewed carefully in early September. It was clear from the discussions that the team's morale is high and that everyone is pressing hard to meet project goals. The approach to software, hardware, and documentation tasks is professional and businesslike	•
3. <u>Hardware</u> - The equipment parts that caused the slip in the shipment of the initial system have arrived. Hardware manufacturing and test activity is now focused on preparing the prototype system for delivery to their computer site, scheduled for 5 August.	STATINTL
ware, which has caused some concern to the extent that there is a priority problem, has chosen the right emphasis; the connection of the IBM hardware to a host computer at is a major test of the mass storage concept, whereas manufac turing additional copies of the hardware will present few new problems, if any. Both the prototype system assembly and the manufacture of Agency hardware must proceed without major problems in order to maintain	STATINTL STATINTL STATINTL
delivery schedules there is no cushion. I visited the puter site. The manager there seems to be as committed to the project as the people. Must the Agency's hardware assembly fall behind in order to meet the needs? I trust judgment here. There is one inconsistency: said that the manufacturing help needed from audio-visual system division is causing problems, but said the hardware tasks of that Division are complete	STATINTL
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and the Agency equipment is now in the TBM facility (i.e. the priority question is within that facility, rather than between divisions). The vacuum/compressed air subsystem looks good. I see no problem with the CDC hardware.

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Software - I raised three questions with What procedures are being used to manage the development of ORACLE software? Which modules of the software are critical, which are needed, which are desireable, and what is the status of each category? What needs to be done, if anything, to improve the coordination between the Agency and on their respective software tasks? We spent most of our discussion on the first question. He showed me detailed documentation on each step of what he called "the development process." His explanations and his approach appeared sound. He is attentive to nearterm schedules and is tracking the progress of his twelve people closely. Organization problem: He is acting as a first-level supervisor to four programmers until he and find a qualified person. Mr. definition of the most critical software modules parallels the near-term system goal--to get a prototype ORACLE-host system runin early August. The specifications for these modules are frozen and most of the code has been written. Specifications

for the other software modules have not yet been frozen: operator communications, file management, job executive, VM executive, security utilities, and MIS. Job executive and file management are being given priority attention; utilities and MIS are being given the lowest priority. Release 1 of the ORACLE software, which will contain (perhaps limited)

functions in each of the above areas, is supposed to be defined jointly by 22 July 1974. Regarding the Agency software relationship, Mr. expressed mild concern about the high visibility we require on his software progress. This was a hint, which I think is justified, that equal visibility might be applied to ORACLE host software and requirements definition—both of which we are responsible for. My general impression of the software effort is that it is being handled well. Two concerns: (a)

not sure that he would tell me (or when he though STATINTL he was getting into trouble. It clearly feels a bit ill at ease with STATINTL the software side and must rely heavily on his software manager, who has not hit him with his first serious problem yet. For this reason, I emphasized strongly to that while schedules are important, it was equally important that both the Agency and not be surprised. STATINTL

(b) The Agency has insisted on having the upper hand in ORACLE system specifications. This is a two-edged sword. is most energetic in software implementation; he is less aggressive on software design. He will give highest priority to that which is well defined. His approach is correct, given our guidance. If we want system specification control, we must carry through on our initiative; he cannot and will not.

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In this regard, I made the point, which I will make to well, that if disagreements arise on whether specific capabilities should or should not be included in Release 1 of the software, error the side of excluding them (with VM excepted; see below). A stable working, partial system can be built upon.	n
5. Documentation and Testing - is playing an portant role at the has a specific job in system testing and ceptance, but his presence at has an important side effect or contractor's approach. He is their reminder that there is a real limited to the state of the stat	ac- n the
customer and that performance is the only acceptable criterion on to contract. He has direct contact with and free access to facility and its people. His communications with Headquarters see satisfactory. His next major milestone is getting an approved document.	the their STATINTL m ument
specifying the procedures to be followed in the pre-shipment accept test (PSAT) to be held in November. His deadline is 22 July. I lead that a part of this acceptance procedure will be testing by Agency computer operators using operational documentation provided by agreed that his TDY at should term in December, whether or not any project milestones slip. I did not who is in charge of documentation, but everyone specifically highly of her. The procedure will be testing by Agency computer operators using operational documentation provided by agreed that his TDY at should term in December, whether or not any project milestones slip. I did not who is in charge of documentation, but everyone specifically with her.	STATINTL minate soke
has generated a climate of s discipline at A sign in a corridor that cannot be missed removed. Working days to 2 August" the Friday before the protot system is to be shipped to the host computer site. Two other important approved, and an statement on their confidence on meeting PSAT and shipment dates) and the first week in Section (critical design review). The principal risk in meeting the No PSAT and/or the December shipment, in judgment, is testing. He believes that the hardware components individually wi ready, that the critical software elements will be ready, but that the abare minimum time available in the schedule now for testing the as a whole. Evidence of his concern was the pessimistic view he is getting started with the VM interface. Much of the design work on transferable.	eads ype ortant ions, ence eptem- vember systeMTATINTL 11 be here is system had on CP is empha- esitant\$TATINTL

7. Conclusions

tem concept works. This is his preoccupation.

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A. We should proceed on the assumption that the current schedule is valid and will be met. To do otherwise may result in a self-fulfilking overhood Release 2001/09/04: CIA-RDP83T00573R000500040012-3

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B. To show our good faith, we should vigorously pursue our obligations in generating design requirements in all areas and in host software development. Our people should be ready when asks STATINTL questions; we should ask them of ourselves if they do not. In short, we should continue to demonstrate the importance of the job STATINTL for us.

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